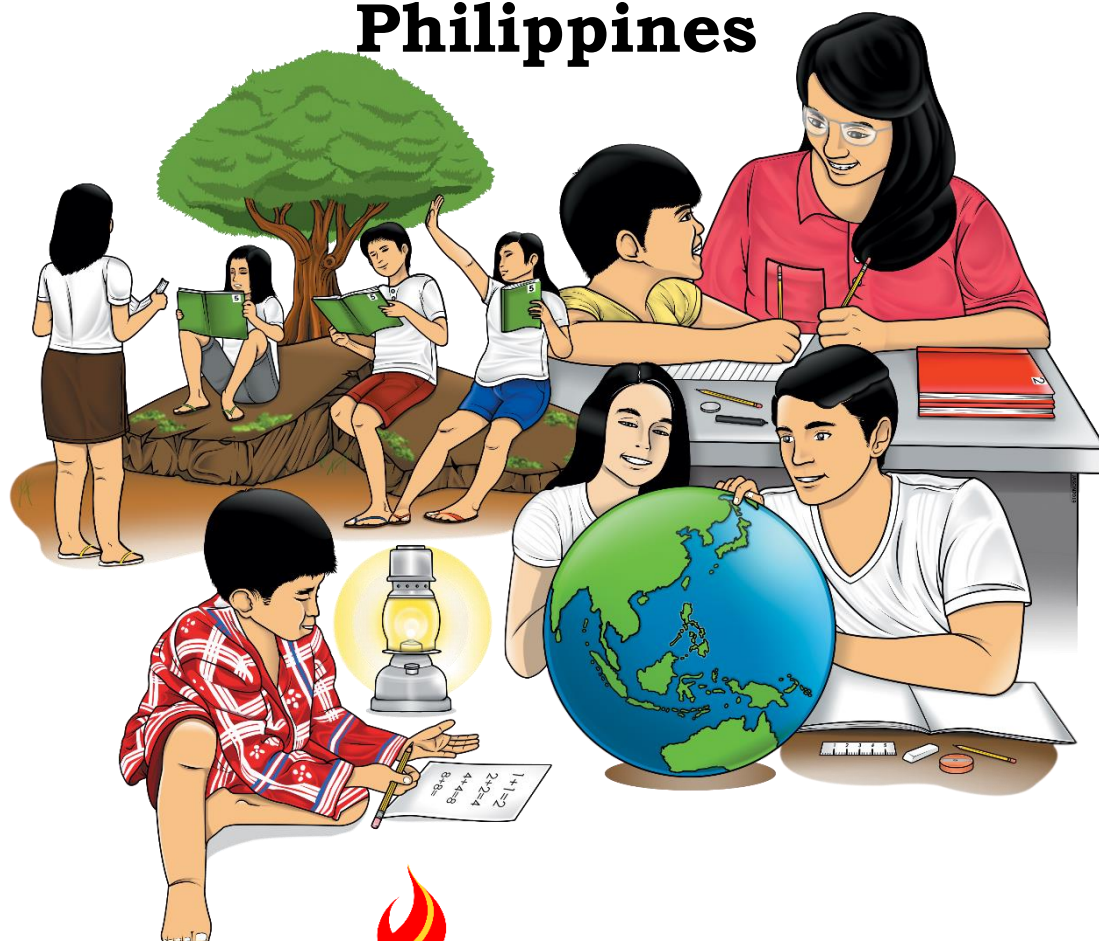


Contemporary Philippine Arts from the Regions

Quarter 1 - Module 2

Contemporary Arts in the Philippines



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**Contemporary Arts in the
Philippines**

Lesson

2

Art: Meaning and Forms

Different kinds of local artworks have sprung not only in the urban centers of the country and in schools of arts of different educational institutions but also a lot more of never before seen or heard art forms from the countryside have made known and have become renowned. The seeming isolation and distance of many communities in far flung regions have kept the beauty and significance of countless forms of Philippine art. It is real good news that they have been exposed and have been expressed.



What's In

Contemporary Philippine Arts from the Regions is not just a subject that has to be learned. It wants Contemporary Philippine Arts to be viewed, to be understood and to be appreciated in the context as they were created. As mentioned in the previous module, the arts come in various categories and forms.

It is essential to know and understand the meaning of the term contemporary when used in defining Contemporary Philippine Arts. Understanding it would pave the way for better appreciation of the arts in the Philippine context. Understanding Philippine Arts would provide a better perception of the details, context, meaning and significance of the artworks placed in a cultural, political and historical context.




It is also important to differentiate Modern Philippine Arts from Contemporary Philippine Arts. It would be easy to misunderstand the two by treating them as interchangeably the same. The recent years revealed a conglomeration or mix of different art forms and art media that are expressions of the times where we live in. Many art forms are integrated to create artworks that are quite different from Classical and Modern Arts. Integrative Art has become part of Contemporary Art. Contemporary Art is evident when we go to the different regions and provinces of our country. Each artwork exhibiting its own uniqueness and meaning.

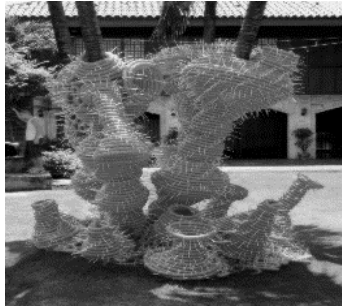



What's New

People get out of their houses to go to school, to work or to buy something. Almost all of them are unmindful of their surroundings as they seldom pay attention to the daily usual sights and sounds. They all come back home with same circumstances. The signages, billboards, music, pictures and other similar visual and auditory presentations have become a conglomeration of perceived mundane elements of daily life. Thus, the beauty, relevance, significance and implications of these otherwise monotonous external stimuli are seldom comprehended and appreciated.

Let's imagine that you will be going out of your house and come across the following pictures. Give the questions some thought and answer them truthfully.

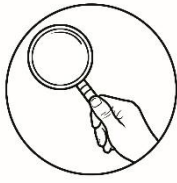
<p>1</p> 	<p>What do you see in the picture?</p> <p>Did they catch our attention?</p> <p>Cite its significance or importance.</p>
<p>commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:09960jITomas_Morato_%26_28_Boy_Scouts_Philippines_Monument-Roundaboutfvf.jpg</p>	
<p>What do you see in the picture?</p> <p>Are their colors and font styles appealing? Why or why not?</p> <p>Cite their significance or importance.</p>	<p>2</p> 
<p>creativecommons.org/photos/d15ee899-2648-4f16-89b3-390ad5880215</p>	
<p>3</p> 	<p>What do you see in the picture?</p> <p>Are they inspiring or distracting? Why or why not?</p> <p>Cite its significance or importance.</p>
<p>commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Street_art_in_SF_1.jpg</p>	

What do you see in the picture?	 <div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; right: 10px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">4</div>
Do you find it appealing? Why or why not?	
Cite its significance or importance.	
https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/737c5a87-f31b-4d78-9d05-69ba7fdfaa1d	
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">5</div> 	<div>What do you see in the picture?</div> <div>Are they worth watching? Why or why not?</div> <div>Cite its significance or importance.</div>
pixabay.com/photos/dance-hiphop-stage-breakdancing-517680/	

Processing:

- Identify the pictures in Column A by matching them with Column B, choose from the letters in Column B.

___ Picture 1	A. Contemporary Philippine sculpture
___ Picture 2	B. Contemporary Philippine street art
___ Picture 3	C. Commercial Billboard art
___ Picture 4	D. Street Dance
___ Picture 5	E. Destination signage art
- What do the pictures express or reveal? Explain briefly.
- In a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the presentation, significance and viewers' impact for each picture? Explain each rating.
- Why do young people fail to recognize or pay attention to these works of art these days?



What is It

The pictures presented in the previous activity are depictions of the artworks that are seen today. Present day art has a lot of variety. There are various expressions Philippine art that can be found right inside our homes and are found everywhere. The arrangement of furniture, home décor, the way a mother cooks a particular kind of food to the jeepney designs and signages, architecture of buildings, billboard designs and other unnoticed works of art, comprise the “art of today.”

The artworks and styles of the past have evolved and have adapted to a dynamic changing world, a world immersed in the latest technology and emerging ideologies. These artworks and styles are created, witnessed and experienced in our lifetime by artists and style experts catering to Millennial and Gen Z viewers, and techy clientele. These artworks are collectively known as Contemporary Art.

The term contemporary has been defined as something “happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time” (Merriam-Webster). Assuming this definition, Contemporary Art refers to art of any form and genre that produced in our contemporary time, simply put as “art created today.” It should not be confused with Modern Art which ranges from the end of the 19th Century until the 1970’s or 1980’s or the late 20th Century. It will put Contemporary Art from the late 20th Century to the present. Modern Art differs from Contemporary Art historically and contextually.

Contemporary Art

Contemporary Art is influenced by the economic, social, political and environmental context where the artist is immersed in. It can be said that Contemporary Art is the artist’s expression of his perception and comprehension of these contexts. Contemporary Arts in the Philippines is as diverse as our people. Contemporary Philippine Art is not confined to the usual genres of the four main art forms, namely, visual, literary, applied and performing arts. Genres are categories of artistic creation and are characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. Many other genres came up which include pure are forms as well as mixed art forms. The following are examples from each art form:

Examples of Contemporary Art Forms

Visual Arts	Performance Arts	Applied Arts	Literary Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop Art • Word Art • Conceptual Art • Installation Art • Photorealism • Contemporary Realism • Graffiti Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: blues, electronic, experimental, funk, hip-hop, jazz, metal, pop, rock, roots • Theater Art: stage, film, street play • Dance: flash mob, Street Dances comprising hip-hop, funk, house and rave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Art • Photography • Computer Art • Film and Broadcasting Art • Architecture, Design and Allied Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrated Novel • Digi-Fiction • Graphic Novels • Manga • Doodle Fiction • Text-Talk Novels • Chick Literature • Flash Fiction • Hyper Poetry • Blog

Contemporary Art is prominent in the Philippines and has been appreciated by so many people, and some of them were not even aware that they are looking at fine examples of Contemporary Art. Many contemporary Philippine artworks have earned the admiration and respect of viewers from here and abroad. These artworks are expressions of the artist's thoughts and feelings based on their experience of the here and now. These include current events, issues and social concerns affecting the society where the artist lives in.

Contemporary Philippine artists hail from the different regions of the country. They use a wide variety of art media in their creations, some of the media are materials that are readily available in the locality where the artist resides. Contemporary Philippine artworks are multifaceted and are expressive renditions of the artist's perception of what were observed and experienced. These artists create, work and make art in their personal context. Viewers can appreciate contemporary Philippine art more by employing all of their senses. Viewing art is not just a detached experienced but a deep personal experience of dwelling into the artist's mind and heart.

Expressions of Contemporary Philippine Art are influenced by social, historical, geographical, ideational, personal and technical factors. These factors are imbibed by the artist and are combined to get immersed in the heart, to get molded in the mind and to be propelled in the hands to create an expressive reality.

Elements of Contemporary Art

Contemporary Arts have different elements that are put together to come up with a distinct artwork. These elements include:

1. **Appropriation**, this relates to the modifications made by the artist.
2. **Hybridity**, this refers in the use of different art mediums that are put together.

3. **Technology**, its application highlights the creativity of the artist.
4. **Performance**, carried out for viewers to experience.
5. **Space**, intricate use of space.

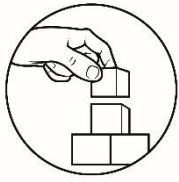
These elements are combined in different ways to come up with Integrative Art. Integrative Art employs the use of different art elements used together in distinct different expressions. Thus, it becomes a combination of different art forms for specific groups of viewers. Integrative art is also a fusion of different art disciplines using different styles and media in creating art. It can be found in different places of the country, usually in urban areas where artists have ready access to different art forms and media. Examples of Integrative Art include the use of computer applications combined with other media, the use of non-traditional art materials in creating artworks usually done with mixed art forms.

Contemporary Art Forms from the Philippine Regions

With modern technology and easy access to far-flung areas of the country, many artworks have become known and many more are being created by present day artists from the different regions. All forms of art can be found throughout the country. Artworks coming from the seventeen regions of the three main island groups of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, have been exhibited in different exhibition halls and museums. Viewers have come to know and, more importantly, to understand the present-day art expressions of artists who want their culture, situation and issues be known through their artworks.

The distinct features of Contemporary Philippine Art include:

1. **Communal nature**, as it reflects the relationships build around the bonds of community and society.
2. **Intuitive**, as Filipinos are immersed in their consciousness of themselves, their community and their culture.
3. **Holistic**, as individuals, groups of people and events are perceived in their entirety as well as the unitive use of art materials and forms.
4. **Creative process**, as the artist puts more emphasis on how their artwork was made than on the artwork itself.
5. **Integrative**, as it encompasses religious, moral, spiritual, social, and environmental concerns.
6. **Multi-focal**, as it considers everything and everyone, the wide perspective of the artwork as well as both artist and viewer.




What's More

Activity 1.1 Analyzing Contemporary Philippine Arts

Contemporary Philippine Art considers not only the artist but also the participation of the community through the viewers. The experience is not solely confined to the creator of the artwork but also to its viewer. Being member of the community and a viewer, you can also take part in creating art. There is no established or fixed standard in creating contemporary art. The artist is free to render his artwork with the use of various materials, traditional or non-traditional, any combination of style and technique, and choice of form either singly or in combination.

Observing Art: Understanding the Form, Media and Style

Integrative Art comes in different sizes and shapes, forms and styles. This art can be observed in Junk Art. Junk Art is a sculptural rendition using discarded or used materials usually scrap plastic, cartons, paper, metal or glass. Observe and analyze this artwork and answer the questions:

	What is being depicted in this artwork?
	What kind of art is this?
	What materials were used in creating this artwork?
	Cite the significance or importance of this kind of artwork.
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Junk_Art_at_Havenstreet_-_geograph.org.uk_-_835576.jpg	

Processing:

1. What kind of media or materials were used in this kind of art?
2. What other media or materials can be used aside from those identified in the picture?
3. If you will be given the chance to create this kind of art, what would you create?
4. What media or materials would you use in creating your artwork?
5. Cite the possible obstacles or difficulties you might encounter in creating this artwork.

Give your understanding of the following terms with reference to creating art:

1. *Para-paraan*
2. *Diskarte*
3. *Galing*
4. *Bihasa*
5. *Sanay*

Activity 1.2 Bring Out Your Resourcefulness and Creativity






Traditional art media include pencils, crayons, watercolor, papers, scissors and a lot more of materials usually used in school. Young students have learned to draw and to create artworks from these materials. Some students excelled with the use of these materials but there are others who can do better with non-traditional art materials. These materials can be accessed and can be acquired free from the surroundings. There is no need to purchase them from a bookstore. It all depends on one's resourcefulness and creativity.

One is resourceful if one has the ability to find quick and clever ways to get art materials from one's surroundings. One is creative if one can use his or her imagination in coming up with an artwork that is considered original and has never been done or created before. The combination of resourcefulness and creativity can bring out the artist in everyone.

Enhancing Capability: Selecting Materials and Creation

It is about time for you to put your resourcefulness into good use. Make your experience as a jump-off point in appreciating the Arts. In this activity, you need to go into your mind in order to come up with a realistic idea of the kind of artwork that you would want to have.

Write your answer for each column based on the locations found in the first column of the table:

Location	Materials that can be Collected	Kind of Artwork that can be Made or Created	Title and Theme of Artwork
Riverside 			
creativecommons.org/photos/294584f7-5c66-4726-a874-20f5130f8bed			
Rice field 			
creativecommons.org/photos/754dac68-e926-4c4c-ad4b-6b13b4b2c183			
Garbage dump 			
creativecommons.org/photos/df94f9eb-5dd2-41df-a024-0e15a8e1cbe5			
Seashore 			
creativecommons.org/photos/f2a5d80e-d0d2-42ba-a67c-232dcef9be69			
Mountainside 			
creativecommons.org/photos/2cbfa6f2-07b8-4a01-84af-5c2aaa739ccc			

Processing:

1. Which among the five locations were you able to get the greatest number of kinds of materials?
2. Among the locations, which one has the least availability of materials? Why?
3. Among the possible artworks that you can create, which one do you think is the most feasible or doable? Why?

Give your understanding of the following terms with reference to non-traditional art materials:

1. *Retaso* (textile)
2. *Kusot* (coconut)
3. *dayami* (rice)
4. *May wido* (in singing)
5. *Pulido* (in drawing or painting)



What I Have Learned

1. The artworks and styles of the past have evolved and have adapted to a dynamic changing world, a world immersed in the latest technology and emerging ideologies to become the Contemporary Art of today.
2. Contemporary Art refers to art of any form and genre that produced in our contemporary time, simply put as “art created today.”
3. Genres are categories of artistic creation and are characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter.
4. Contemporary Art is expressions of the artist’s thoughts and feelings based on their experience of the here and now which current events, issues and social concerns affecting the society where the artist lives in.
5. Contemporary Philippine artists hail from the different regions of the country and they use a wide variety of art media in their creations. These are materials that are readily available in the locality where the artist resides.
6. Contemporary Arts have different elements that are put together to come up with a distinct artwork like Performance, Appropriation, Technology, Hybridity and Space. (Mnemonics: PATHS)
7. The distinct features of Contemporary Philippine Art include Communal, Holistic, Intuitive, Multi-focal, Integrative and Creative Process. (Mnemonics: CHIMIC)
8. Contemporary Philippine Art considers not only the artist but also the participation of the community through the viewers wherein the experience is not solely confined to the creator of the art but also to the viewer of the art.
9. Integrative Art comes in different sizes and shapes, forms and styles as observed in Junk Art which is a sculptural rendition using discarded or used materials.
10. The combination of resourcefulness and creativity can bring out the artist in everyone.